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MIG NO.
REPORT NO. R-324-54
SUBJECT: Arrival of New Soviet Military Attachés, and Reception at Soviet Embassy
FROM: Col. ... Buenos Aires REFERENCES: -276-54 and AIR report IR-197-54
EVALUATION: A-1 DATE OF INFORMATION: 2-6 NOV 54 DATE OF REPORT: 17 Nov 1954
INCL: PREPARED BY: Col. ... Tyson, USA SOURCE: Personal Observation

SUMMARY OR SID REPORT:

1. The turnout of Argentine military to the Soviet embassy reception of 6 November 1954 in honor of the Revolution was merely token, with two officers from each service representing their respective Ministries. No generals were present.
2. The two new Soviet Military Attachés, who had arrived 21 October 1954, made their debut at the function. Report includes comments on these officers.

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ORIGINATOR: MI-THURSTON R. SHADING DATA

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ARRIVAL OF NEW SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHES, AND RECEPTION AT SOVIET
AMBASSY

1. The evening of 6 November 1954, reporting officer and the Assistant Air and Navy Attaches accompanied the U.S. Ambassador to a reception at the Soviet embassy residence in honor of the Revolution. The turn-out of Argentine military was token, and no more. Two officers (Military Attaché Liaison Officers and Aides) from each of the services (Army, Navy and Air) represented their respective Ministers. No generals were present, in contrast to last year's reception when a number attended. Besides the U.S., Great Britain, Egypt, Bolivia, Uruguay and Mexico were represented by Military Attaches.

2. Two new Russian Military Attaches, Colonel Frokofi ROMANENKO and Major Constantino PEROV, who had arrived 21 October, made their debut at this function. Both speak English and appeared quite willing to be friendly with U.S. Attachés. Reporting officer had met Colonel ROMANENKO at the office of the Foreign Liaison Officer on 2 November 1954 when the Russian was officially reporting to the Argentine Army, accompanied by PEROV, the until-then Acting Attaché. ROMANENKO stated that he had learned English in school, and had become accustomed to speaking it with American officers in Iran in 1942-1943. He was also smoking Camel cigarettes. He appeared friendly, and before leaving stated he wanted to talk with reporting officer again soon.

COMINT: Offhand, both of these officers appear more approachable than previous Soviet Attachés to Argentina, particularly Colonel ROMANENKO.

It appears odd that both these officers and the Naval Attaché all speak good English. Colonel ROMANENKO apparently does not speak Spanish very well. This is a change from the usual custom in that heretofore all the Attachés spoke Spanish fluently prior to coming here.

Colonel ROMANENKO stated he had not visited Colonel Miguel VILLALBA, Argentine Military Attaché to Russia, before departing, as the latter had been ill in the hospital for some time.

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